
G. M. Henry.
July 1926.
I

Turdoides rufescens ♂, ♀ 1x1. Sexes alike.
The Rufous Babbler. Peculiar to Ceylon. Balangoda, Ceylon, April 1926
Wait, B. of Ceylon, P. 44.

Turdoides
rufescens (Blyth) 2/3 Natural size.
♀ above
♂ below


2.
G.M. Henry
May 1926.

Turdoides cinereifrons ♂. 1X1. Sexes alike.
The Ashy-headed Babbler. Peculiar to Ceylon.
Balangoda, Ceylon. April 1926.
Wait. B. of Ceylon. P. 44.

Turdoides
cinereifrons (Blyth)
♂ 3/4 Natural size.


G. M. Henry
Dec. 1925.

Pomatorhinus horsfieldi melanurus. 1X1
The Ceylon Scimitar Babbler. ♂
(Sexes similar). Nait, B. of Ceylon, P. 45.

ORH 6a
// W13
. Wh

Pomatorhinus horsfieldi melanurus (Blyth) ♂ X 8/9 1

Life-size.
Pellorneum fuscicapillum
Medamahanuwara, Ceylon. 3000'
Date. - Painted Jan. 1925.
Sexes indistinguishable.

Brown-Capped Babbler
Wait. p. 48. Figured by Legge, facing p. 509, as the Whistling Quaker Thrush.

Peculiar to Ceylon.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL SUISSE,
KANDY,
CEYLON.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL SUISSE,
KANDY,
CEYLON.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL SUISSE,
KANDY,
CEYLON.

Aug. 1941 Now. Brown-capped Jungle Babbler
E.A.M.

Pellorneum
fuscicapillum (Blyth)
♂ below. x 4/5 ♀ above x 3/5

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL SUISSE,
KANDY,
CEYLON.


4.
G.M.Henry.
Jan. 1925.


♂
♀
5.
G. M. Henry.
Feb. 1926.

The Black-capped Bulbul.
20. Pycnonotus melanicterus ♂ & ♀
1x1. Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 56.

Pycnonotus melanicterus (Gmel.) × 5/6
♂ ♀


G.M. Henry.
July 1916.

Kelaartia penicillata ♂ Cinnamon Hooks.
IX. The Yellow-eared Bulbul. Peculiar to Ceylon.
Nuwaraeliya, Ceylon. June 1926. 4.30
West S.W. Ceylon. P 10.

Kelaartia
penicillata (Blyth)
♀ 3/4 Natural size.


G. M. Henry
April 1926

Oreocincla spiloptera. The Spotted-winged Thrush. ♂
Ceylon, Dryden Spil spilo.
Drawn by Keulemans.

Oreocincla
spiloptera. Blyth.

♂. 2/3 Natural size.


♀
♂
G.M.Howe.
June. 1925.

Cyornis tickelliae nesaea, ♂, ♀
(Foreground) 1×1
Wait, "Birds of Ceylon" P. 79.

Cyornis
tickelliae nesaea Oberholser
3/4 Natural size.

♀ ♂


G.M. Henry.
VIII-25.
♂

1 x 1. Scarce similar
Holt, B. of Ceylon, 1879.

Stoparola
sordida Walk. x 8/7
♂


G. M. Henry.
April 1926.

Dicrurus coerulescens leucopygialis ♂ Jerdon.
1X1. The White-vented Drongo. Subsp. peculiar to Ceylon.
Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 101.

Dicrurus
coerulescens leucopygialis (Blyth)
♂ 3/4 Natural size.


G.M. Henry.
Feb. 1925.

Ceylonese Warbler
[illegible]
as Valle[illegible]
Peculiar to Ceylon.

Note. Legge's illustration unlike No[illegible]

Life Size.
Specific name - Elaphornis pelliseri
Place - Nuwara Eliya. Ceylon. 7500' (Mt. Pedro)
Date. - April 1923. Painted Feb. 1925.
[illegible] upper figure
[illegible] lower figure
Plant - ? Strobilanthes sp.
Wait, p. 110.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL SUISSE,
KANDY.
CEYLON.

Elaphornis pelliseri (Blyth) ♀ ♂
♀ skin ♂ above


G. M. Henry.
Jan. 1925.

Yellow-footed Gull

Larus [illegible]

Gordon & Taylor – Captured by [illegible] through [illegible] in [illegible]

Napoleon [illegible]

Br. Geoff Wood.
HOTEL [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Ex-Leg

Cyanoplanifrons

Gordon & Taylor – Captured by [illegible] through [illegible] in [illegible]

Napoleon [illegible]

Br. Geoff Wood.
HOTEL [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

January 1907

Sex indistinguishable

Plant – Eugenia jambolana


G.M. Henry.
Mar. 1955.

[illegible] Ceylon [illegible]
Wait p. 186. Figured by Legge, facing p. 215
Peculiar to Ceylon.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
HOTEL [illegible]SE,
CEYLON.

[illegible]
[illegible] Ceylon [illegible]
Confusa [illegible]
Peculiar to Ceylon
See Legge p. 212 & 214 (ll)
[illegible]

Xanthodoma
nigricapilla Gerv.
♂


G.M.Heron
June 1925.

Alcedo atthis taprobana ♂ Sexes alike.
1×1 Wait. B. of Ceylon. P. 195

Alcedo
atthis taprobana
(Kleinschm.)
♂ 4/5 Natural size


G.M. Henry.
Feb. 1914.

Phoenicopterus
ruber roseus (Pall.)
♂ x-1


G. M. Howe

× 3/4
Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 255.

Aug. 1991 Now: Brown Hawk-Owl E.Q.M.

Ninox
scutulata hirsuta (Temm.)
♂ ~~♀~~ 1/2 Natural size


G. M. Henry
VII-1925.

7½ x 6¾

Sitta frontalis frontalis Horsf.

The Velvet-fronted Blue Nuthatch

♀ below. ♂ above X4/5


G.M.Henry.
July 1925.

♀ ♂

Ægithina tiphia zeylonica ♂ ♀

1 ♂.

Aug. [illegible]

Pl. 6

A 10295

Ægithina tiphia zeylonica (Gmel.)

The Ceylon Iora

♂ below, ♀ above ¾ natural size


G. M. Henry.
IX-1926.

Turdus merula kinnisii ad. ♂ & juv. 1 X 1. ad. nat. [illegible]
[illegible]
Peculiar to [illegible]
Nait; B. of Ceylon, P. 69.

Turdus merula kinnisii
(Blyth)
♂ adult in front; juvenile behind.
× 3/4


20.
G. M. Henry.
5. VI. 25.

Arrenga blighi Holdsworth. 1 X 1

♂ adult, foreground. ♀ background

Coll. B. of Ceylon. 1874

The species is one of Rubro diffusus's closest congeners in the Ceylon mountains.

a 9418

— 6 —

↑
6
↓

Arrenga blighi
Holdsworth
♂ adult (foreground) ♀ [redacted] (background)
× 3/5


G.M. Henry

Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis Sharpe. 1x1
The Ceylon Black-naped Flycatcher. Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 84.
♂ above ♀ below

Hypothymis azurea ceylonensis
Sharpe
♀ below ♂ above $\times \frac{5}{6}$


G.M. Henry.
1920.

Tephrodornis pondicerianus affinis
Blyth
♂ *below* ♀ *above* $\times \frac{3}{4}$


23.
G.M. Henry,
A.I. 1916.

Dissemurus paradiseus ceylonensis Sharpe. ♂ × ⅔
Coll. L. of Hayes. 1911 2. Subsp. peculiar to Ceylon.

8½ × 5½

A 10295

Lissemurus paradiseus ceylonensis Sharpe
The Ceylon Racket-tailed Drongo
♂ ½ natural size

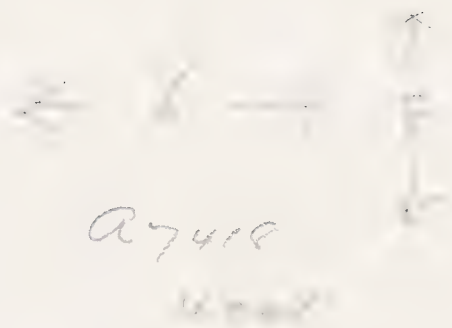

G.M. Henry.
VI 26

Fantail Warbler. (Blyth)

Cisticola juncidis omalura ♂ 1X1.

Wait, B. of Ceylon P. 112.

Specimen obtained at Haldummulla, Ceylon, June 1926.



a7418

Cisticola juncidis omalura
♂ Blyth x 9/10

Uroloncha kelaarti (Blyth) Sri Lanka Munia. 1X1.

♂ foreground ♀ background.

Nest, 2 eggs. F 138.

The foliage is Sesbania aculeata, a very common weed.

Very abundant at all elevations but very plentiful in the hills.

Specimen shot at Nuwaraliya, Ceylon, c. 6200 ft. [illegible]

A10295 $\frac{3}{14}$ +6

Uroloncha kelaarti (Blyth)

The Ceylon Munia

♂ left ♀ right X 6/7


M. Henry
12-Tree 2

Acmonorhynchus vincens (Sclater) [illegible]

♂ left ♀ right.

Wait, B. of Ceylon, P. 169.

The plant is Ficus [illegible] (Thwaites) [illegible]. The bird is very fond of the fruit & both specimens depicted were shot while feeding on it, at Kitulgala, Ceylon. 11-IV-27.

Acmonorhynchus vincens
(Sclater)
♂ left ♀ right. x 6/7


G. M. Henry
July 1824

$7\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{8}$

A 10295

Yungipicus hardwickii gymnophthalmus
(Blyth)

The Ceylon Pygmy Woodpecker

♂ above ♀ below Z 4/5


28.
M. Henry.
X-26.

Strickland's Woodpecker. (Layard)

Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus stricklandi ♀. ♂. 3/4.

Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 182.

♂ phot at Balangoda, Ceylon, 19-IV-26.

♀ " " Kandapola, " 22-IX-26.

Subspecies endemic to Ceylon.

Aug. 1941 Rare Crimson-backed Woodpecker
Chrysocolaptes lucidus stricklandi

Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus
stricklandi (Layard)
♂ below ♀ above x 1/2


G. M. Henry.

Caprimulgus kelaarti Blyth ♂ [illegible]

Wait, [illegible] Ceylon, P. 213.

obtained at Haldummulla, Ceylon. 22-VI-26.

a 7418

Caprimulgus kelaarti
♂ Blyth × 3/4


G.M. Henry
III-25

Treron pompadora pompadora (Gmel.) ♂ (foreground) ♀ (background)

Wait, Birds of Ceylon. P.300. Depasiya, Province of Sabaragamuwa.

The foliage etc. is a wild fig. : Ficus altissima. "Naga" Sinhalese.

The ♂ shot at Ambistala (7-VII-27). The ♀ shot at Millawana, Sabaragamuwa on 9-I-28.

Treron pompadora pompadora (Gmel.)

The Pompadour Green Pigeon.

♂ below X ½, ♀ above X ⅓


G. M. Henry.

Alsocomus torringtonii (Bonap.) The Ceylon Wood-pigeon × $\frac{3}{4}$.
♂ adult – foreground. Young ♂ behind. Sexes nearly alike.
(Mr. B. of Ceylon P.30).

a 7418

← 8 × 6 ↓

4 co

Alsocomus torringtonii
(Bonaparte)
♂ adult (foreground) juvenile (background)
× $\frac{5}{8}$


G. M. Henry.
1926

Turnix javanica Leggei Stuart Baker. 1 x 1. The Ceylon Bustard Quail.
♂ left. ♀ right. ad. nat. del. J. H. Ming.
Wait, E. of Ceylon. P. 324

Turnix javanica leggei
Stuart Baker
♂ left ♀ right × 4/5


G.M. Henry.

F

Pyctorhis sinensis nasalis Legge. ♂ below, ♀ above. X 3/4

Subsp. peculiar to Ceylon.

Wait. B. of Ceylon P. 47.

The foliage is that of Wild Guava, growing amongst "illuk" grass

A14072

Aug. 1941: Now Chrysomma sinense nasale

E.A.M.

Pyctorhis sinensis nasalis Legge
The Ceylon Yellow-eyed Babbler
♂ below ♀ above
3/4 natural size

F

Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons (Blyth). ♂ below, ♀ above × 5/6

Subsp. peculiar to Ceylon.

Wait. B. of Ceylon. P. 49.

The foliage is that of a jungle shrub (name?)

A 14072

Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons (Blyth)
The Black-fronted Babbler
♂ below ♀ above
3/4 natural size


G.M. Henry.
Sept. 1925

Culicicapa ceylonensis ♂ [illegible]

1×1. [illegible]

Wm. [illegible] Taylor. [illegible]

F

A14072

Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis
(Swainson)

The Grey-headed Flycatcher

♂ 6/- natural size


G. M. Henry.
IV-15

F

Hemipus picatus picatus (Sykes) ♂ below ♀ above.
1X1. Specimens taken at Aliya, 6500'.
Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 90.
The foliage is of an unidentified jungle shrub.

A14072

Hemipus picatus picatus (Sykes)
The Black-backed Pied Shrike
♂ below ♀ above
3/4 natural size


G. M. Henry
I-1928

F

Prinia sylvatica valida (Blyth) ♂ above, ♀ below. × $\frac{5}{6}$

Watt, B. of Ceylon P. 120.

The flower is that of Lantana.

A1607L

Prinia sylvatica valida (Blyth)
The Ceylon Jungle Wren-Warbler
♂ left ♀ right
$\frac{5}{8}$ natural size.


G. M. Henry
1931.

[illegible] ptilogenys (Blyth) ♂ (Zoological) × 2/5 [illegible] size.
The Ceylon Grackle is still [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
West, E. J. Taylor, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible]

Nigel

Eulabes ptilogenys (Blyth)
The Ceylon Grackle
♂ 2/5 natural size


G. M. Henry.
XII-15.

Dicaeum erythrorhynchum ceylonensis Babault. Male, ♀ above.
1/1.
Wait, B. of Ceylon. P. 168.
The plant is Loranthus sp. on the leaves of which these birds commonly feed

F

A1607L

Dicaeum erythrorhynchum ceylonensis Babault
The Ceylon Flower-pecker.
♂ below ♀ above
5/6 natural size.


G. M. Henry.
1929.

Lophoceros griseus gingalensis (Shaw) ♂ left ♀ right × 1/2. G. H. Ulrey pinx.
The Ceylon Grey Hornbill. Peculiar to Ceylon. Tropicorous & insectivorous.
Wait, B. of Ceylon, P 202.
We believe ... that of the wild Birds (Wolf pinx 1882)

A14477

Lophoceros griseus gingalensis (Shaw)
The Ceylon Grey Hornbill
♂ left ♀ right 2/7 natural size


G.M. Henry
1928

Collocalia unicolor unicolor (Jerdon) ♂ Ceylon April 1918 1 of. See above.

6000

F

Nesting in Railway tunnel.

Wait, B. of Ceylon P. 208.

A14672

Collocalia unicolor unicolor (Jerdon)
The Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet
♂ 3/4 natural size


G.M. Henry.
1929.

Hemiprocne coronata (Tickell) × 4/5 ♂ perched ♀ flying ♂ ♀ Hoary pine.
The Indian Crested Swift.
Wait, B. of Ceylon P. 209.

Plate 11

Hemiprocne coronata (Tickell)
The Indian Crested Swift
♀ flying ♂ perched ½ natural size


G. M. Henry

Pyrotrogon fasciatus fasciatus (Pennant)
½ × ⅔ [illegible]
Wed. 4th July 1928
[illegible]

Aug. 1991 Novar Malabar Trogon
Harpactes fasciatus
E.a m.

Pyrotrogon fasciatus fasciatus (Pennant)
The Ceylon Trogon
♂ perched ♀ flying
½ natural size.

A1107L


G.M. Henry.
1929.

Centropus chlororhynchus Blyth.
The Green-billed Ceylonese Coucal
♂ ½ natural size

A14477


G.M. Henry

F

Psittacula calthropae (Layard) ♂, ♀ × 4/5

Wait, B. of Ceylon, P. 239

Peculiar to Ceylon. Sp. H. Wag. ad. nat. pinx.

Psittacula calthropae (Layard)
Layard's Parrot
♂ left ♀ right
4/5 natural size


G. M Henry.
XII-28.

E

Coryllis beryllinus (Forster) ♂ below. juv. above

♂ 1x1.

Wait, B. of Ceylon P. 240

Species peculiar to Ceylon.

The foliage & fruit are those of Guava (Psidium guava), of a wild scrub variety.

A 1602

Coryllis beryllinus (Forster)
The Ceylon Lorriquet
♂ below immature bird above.
2/3 natural size


G. M. Henry.
VI-33.

MOLPASTES HAEMORRHOUS HAEMORRHOUS (Gmel.)

The Ceylon Red-vented Bulbul

♂ below ♀ above

$\frac{8}{15}$ Natural Size

Molpastes haemorrhous haemorrhous (Gmel.) ♂ Colombo × $\frac{4}{5}$. ♀ above (seen alike)
The Red-vented Bulbul. Sinh. Kondayā. Tam. Kondai-kuruvi ("kondi" = top-knot)
Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 33.

A very common bird in gardens, plantations, scrub jungle etc. up to circa 4,500 or 5,000 feet (occasionally ascending to 6,000 feet). It avoids heavy forest. The food consists largely of wild berries but many insects are eaten also. There is not much of a song, although during the afternoon siesta, the Bulbul warbles very quietly to itself; but the call- & conversational-notes have a lively & cheerful quality which makes the bird a very pleasant neighbour.

The nest is a rather neat cup of sticks and fibres situated in a bush or low tree. Often it is very ill-concealed and as a result, numbers of young Bulbuls fall victims to crows, cats and small boys. It is often taken from the nest & reared by the Sinhalese, but such birds are generally doomed to a short & semi-starved existence owing to their being fed on exclusively vegetarian diet (plantain & boiled rice). However, if properly fed it makes a very nice pet but is rather stupid & wanting in brains.

G. M. Henry


G.M. Henry
VII-33

Aug. 24. 33. The property of Dr. Casey Wood loaned to the Government of Ceylon to be used in illustrating the "Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon". Eventually to be returned to the E.S.W. Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

This is a common & familiar bird all over the low-country of Ceylon and, in the dryer districts, it ascends the hills up to 5000 feet. It prefers fairly open country & seems to like the neighbourhood of Humanity. It feeds on small insects & shows a great partiality for Termites. The nest is placed in holes in walls, cavities in fallen logs etc. and a pair once nested on top of a wall-pillar in my bedroom! Both sexes are much given to raising their tails and wagging them about. The white shoulder-patch of the ♂, though really large, is generally invisible except in flight or courtship display as it is concealed by the fluffy scapular feathers.

In disposition this is a merry little bird, not at all shy of man, & although it has no song to speak of, its cheerful notes & sprightly ways make it a general favourite.

It spends most of its time on the ground & much prefers rocks, ruins or buildings to perch on than trees.

G. A. Henry

Saxicoloides fulicata fulicata (Linn.)

The Black Robin. ♂ right × 1 ♀ left × 3/4

Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 42

SAXICOLOIDES FULICATA FULICATA (Linn.)

The Black Robin

♂ right ♀ left

7/9 Natural Size


G M Henry
VI-33.

COPSYCHUS SAULARIS CEYLONENSIS Sclater

The Ceylon Magpie Robin

♂ $\frac{3}{5}$ Natural Size

Copsychus saularis ceylonensis (Sclater) ♂ × $\frac{4}{5}$

The Ceylon Magpie Robin. Sinh. Polkichchā. Tam. Kāri-kuruvi.

Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 43.

This is one of the commonest birds of Ceylon, being found from sea-level to 5,500 feet. It frequents all types of country except tall, deep forest, but decidedly prefers the neighbourhood of Man and his cultivation, and is distinctly a garden-bird. Its food consists mainly of insects, worms etc. but it also eats berries and is not at all averse to boiled rice or bread-crumbs! The tail in both sexes is constantly raised in a series of jerks and then suddenly lowered and expanded, the wings being simultaneously dropped. The Magpie Robin is inclined to be crepuscular and continues its hunting until dusk is well advanced.

I am inclined to believe that it pairs for life, for the ♂ & ♀ are always together (i.e. in the same territory) even out of the breeding season. Nevertheless, when the latter is on, the cocks fight vigorously, probably for territory. The nest is built in a hole in a tree, a dark corner under eaves etc. The cock has a very fine song which it delights to pour forth from the top of a tree in the early morning and late evening.

If taken from the nest and carefully reared on a diet mainly of insects it makes a very delightful little pet especially if given practically full liberty.

G. M. Henry

OREOCINCLA DAUMA IMBRICATA (Layard)

The Ceylon Thrush

♂ $\frac{4}{7}$ Natural Size


G. M. Henry.
IV-33


G. M. Henry

Mr. Ramsay Wood, Minivets, Flamens. — Fauna of Brit. Ind. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 92.

The shrill bird is common in Ceylon, especially in the hills, which it ascends to at least 7000 feet. During most of the year it goes in small flocks, probably family parties, and as the young birds mature here it has the reputation of being polygamous, whence its popular name of "Sultan Bird." In the breeding season however the pairs separate. The nest is a neat, neat cup of fine twigs & fibres fastened to a small branch, rather high as a rule. It is covered with lichens affixed by means of cobweb. The bird is insectivorous, feeding largely upon caterpillars, small moths etc. for which it searches assiduously among the leaves & twigs during most of the day. The note is a weak, but very sweet, warbling twitter. The Orange Minivet affects forest and also tree-cultivation & gardens; trees are essential to its happiness & it is never seen upon the ground.

PERICROCOTUS SPECIOSUS FLAMMEUS (Forster)

The Orange Minivet

♂ above ♀ below

$\frac{2}{3}$ Natural Size


G.M.Henry
V-33

HIRUNDO DAURICA HYPERYTHRA Layard

The Ceylon Swallow

♂ left ♀ right

♂ ⅔ Natural Size

Hirundo dauricа hyperythra Layard. Front bird 1x1. Sexes indistinguishable.
The Ceylon Swallow. Sinh. Wēhi-hiriyā; Tam. Adaikalan-kuruvi.
Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 128.

This sub-species is peculiar to Ceylon, where it inhabits most of the low-country and ascends the hills, in places up to 4000 feet. It usually goes in small flocks & may often be seen hawking insects in company with other species of swallows and swifts. Its flight is much less darting than that of *H. rustica gutturalis* or *H. javanica domicola* (the other two common swallows in Ceylon). The note is a fairly loud, somewhat metallic-sounding twitter.

The nest is of mud, mixed with straws etc. stuck to the under-side of a cave-roof, of a bridge etc., & is shaped somewhat like a bottle-gourd, with the entrance down a narrow tunnel. Inside it is lined with feathers.

G. M. Henry


55.
G. M. Henry
17-35.

The Large Ceylon White-eye, Zosterops ceylonensis 1X1, ♂ + ♀ (sexes similar)
Wait, 2nd ed. p.143.

This bird is peculiar to Ceylon, where it is very common in the hills above 3000 feet. It goes in fairly large, scattered flocks and is found both in the jungle and on tea-estates etc., being very partial to gardens because of their flowers, which it visits for the nectar. It is a very tame bird and may be easily caught in a butterfly-net while it is busy with a flower. The note is a chirrup. The food, besides nectar, consists of small insects, especially caterpillars, and various berries. The nest, a small cup of fibres and moss, is situated in a fairly dense bush.

ZOSTEROPS CEYLONENSIS Holdsw.

The Large Ceylon White-eye

♂ below ♀ above

$\frac{4}{5}$ Natural Size


G.M. Henry
VIII-33

This bird is a winter migrant to Ceylon from India, arriving in the Island very early in the season — i.e. in August or September and leaving again in April. It is to be found, during its stay, almost everywhere up to 5000 feet, but it prefers fairly open but well-wooded country, particularly in the neighbourhood of water. It is sociably inclined & gathers into large flocks before roosting at night. The note is a mellow but loud chirrup & is frequently uttered. The food consists of insects, especially Hymenoptera, which are captured on the wing, & I have several times seen one capture the large Dragonfly, Anax guttatus (body nearly 4" long & powerfully built). It bathes on the wing by plunging into the surface of a lake.

G. M. Henry

Aug. 29. 33. The property of Dr. Casey Wood, loaned to the Government of Ceylon for illustrating the "Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon." Eventually to returned to the E. S. W. Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Merops superciliosus javanicus Hors.
The Blue-tailed Bee-eater. × 7/8. Sexes indistinguishable.
Wait, 2nd ed. p 174.

MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS JAVANICUS Hors.
The Blue-tailed Bee-eater
♂ 7 Natural Size
11


G. M. Henry
IV-33

MELITTOPHAGUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS (Gmel.)

The Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

♂ 8/11 Natural Size

Chestnut headed Bee-eater, Melittophagus erythrocephalus, ♂ 1x1 (Gmel.)
Wait, 2nd ed. p. 175.

A widely, but locally distributed bird in Ceylon.
as published from Wilkins hill at Matale, [illegible]
three birds breeding in April, 1932. The nest
[illegible]


G.M. Henry

Sri Lanka Federation Tobacco Co. Ltd.

The Indian Blue-Eared Kingfisher ♂ (♀ [illegible])

Kalu, 3 & 4 Jan. 1939.

Earlier in more dense on Ceylon I found only one juvenile specimen of the species. I have met with it at Matale, Balangoda, Galle and Kalutara, near streams & lots, small streams in hilly jungle in shady recesses along the banks of larger rivers. The attitude and action closely resemble that of the orange-bill blue kingfisher (Alcedo atthis ispida) and it has the same habit of perching on the head and tail at frequent intervals. I have seen it capture a fairly large crab which it hammered to death and then swallowed, and a frog nearly as big as itself, which it swung, or rotated the head of, perching with the head upwards that it could swallow it. Not yet on record that the frog excepted.

On one occasion, in a [illegible] I found the nest which was in a short tunnel, about 2' long, in the bank of a stream [illegible] perching upright by water and took the eggs away. I believe [illegible] and I frequently observed the parent feeding them until my departure.

At Galle I found it in strong scrub in July.

J. H. Henry

[illegible]


G. M. Henry
VII-33.

This is the commonest kingfisher in Ceylon, being found practically everywhere, except in heavy forest, up to at least 4000 feet & occasionally higher. It is particularly common in Colombo. Its favourite haunts are open grass-lands, paddy-fields, forest clearings etc. Its food consists of grasshoppers, frogs, small lizards, earthworms & occasionally fish. Its notes consist of various kinds of rattling screams & loud, garrulous trills. It is not gregarious but appears to pair for life. The nest is in a tunnel, several feet long, dug by the birds in a bank.

If taken before the eyes are open and hand reared this bird makes a nice pet. One which I kept made an excellent "watch-dog" as it never failed to give warning of the entry of "suspicious characters" to the compound & showed a nice discrimination.

G. M. Henry

Aug. 29. 33. - The property of Dr. Casey Wood, loaned to the Government of Ceylon for use in illustrating the "Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon". Eventually to be returned to the E.S.W. Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Halcyon smyrnensis generosa (Madar.)
The White-breasted Kingfisher × Sexes indistinguishable
Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 181.

HALCYON SMYRNENSIS GENEROSA Madar.
The Ceylon White-breasted Kingfisher
♂ 7/11 Natural Size


G. M. Henry
1931

OTUS BAKKAMOENA BAKKAMOENA Pennant

The Collared Scops Owl

♂ $\frac{3}{5}$ Natural Size

Otus b. bakkamoena Forster × $\frac{4}{5}$ (Sizes indistinguishable)

'T, First edition P. 252. Plate XI. Fig 3

Collaroy Scops Owl

This is probably the commonest owl in Ceylon. I have reared several from the nest and found them [illegible] very tame & affectionate, and quite [illegible] in their actions although strictly nocturnal in habit it can see perfectly well in day-light [illegible] and a sun-bath. They bathed regularly in water as well. [illegible] consists mostly of insects such as beetles & grasshoppers, [illegible] (some wave-lizards) for which I have known it [illegible] at night, which are [illegible] it is usually found in a dense thicket or beneath the leaves of [illegible] low tree or creeper under a roof [illegible] in Colombo. The young are [illegible] quiet habit when interested in [illegible] side & rotating the head [illegible]

The property of Dr Casey Wood, loaned to the Government of Ceylon for the purpose of illustrating the "Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon." Eventually to be returned to the E. S. W. Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.


G. M. Harris
IX-33

Distinctive characters (Bodd.) The Breeding Birds. O. x. Hume & Davison, 2nd ed. p. 251.

This is a common bird in Ceylon, especially around the coasts. It shows a preference for the lower districts and is partial to the neighbourhood of large sheets of water such as harbours, estuaries, lagoons and 'tanks' (large reservoirs). In habits it is largely a scavenger, feeding on dead fish etc. and seldom attacks living prey larger than crabs or prawns. In both of colour it is very partial. The flight is easy & graceful but not very swift, and it spends much time in the air. It sits on a prominent object.

HALIASTUR INDUS INDUS (Bodd.)

The Brahminy Kite

♂ $\frac{1}{4}$ Natural Size


G.M.Henry.
V-33

ASTUR BADIUS BADIUS (Gmel.)

The Ceylon Shikra

Adult ♂ below Immature ♀ above

$\frac{2}{5}$ Natural Size

Astur b. badius. The Ceylon Shikra. × 2/3

above — ♀ in first-year plumage.

below — ♂ adult. The adult ♀ resembles the ♂ but is much browner above and has bolder & darker barring on the breast and underparts.

Wait, B. of Ceylon, 2nd ed. p. 268.

This is a bold and fierce little hawk which inhabits a large part of Ceylon. It prefers fairly open country to dense forest & is by no means uncommon in village gardens & tea estates etc. Its usual prey consists of lizards but in the breeding season, when its young have to be provided for, it kills a good many small birds. The nest is situated in a tall tree. The usual cry is a shrill two-syllabled note, repeated several times, which is very cleverly imitated by the White-vented Drongo and the Leaf-birds (Chloropsis) G. M. Henry


G. M. Henry

The property of Dr. Casey Wood, loaned to the Government of Ceylon for the purpose of illustrating the "Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon." Eventually to be returned to the E. S. W. Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

COLOURED PLATES

OF THE

BIRDS OF CEYLON

BY

G. M. HENRY

WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF EACH BIRD

BY

W. E. WAIT, C.M.G., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.

PART IV.

WITH SIXTEEN COLOURED PLATES

PUBLISHED BY THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT

1935

J. N. 43138-755 (1/35)

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BINDING NOTE.

IN the preface to Part I of this work Dr. Pearson stated that as the Plates were not issued in systematic sequence and the ultimate scope of the work was not known, no numbering or pagination was provided so that ultimately the Plates might be rearranged to conform with the arrangement of species in Wait's "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon."

As the ultimate scope of the work is still unknown and many inquiries have been received for advice as to how the Plates should be bound, it is now recommended that Parts I and II be bound to form one volume and Parts III and IV to form a second volume. This will prevent the rearrangement of the Plates to conform with Wait's "Manual of Birds of Ceylon" but as the letterpress contains references to this Manual the systematic position of the birds figured may readily be looked up in that work.

Binding of Parts I, II, III and IV, as issued, is of a temporary nature. When sending parts to your Binder for permanent binding as outlined above, it is recommended that instructions be given to him for full rexine stiff covers with alternate paper and linen hinges (or guards) for letterpress and coloured plates insertion respectively.

J. N. 43138 (1/35)

MOLPASTES CAFER CAFER (LINNAEUS)

THE CEYLON RED-VENTED BULBUL

Vernacular Names—Kondayā (Sinhalese)
Kondai-kuruvi (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 55 and 2 ed., 1931, p. 33 (*Molpastes haemorrhous haemorrhous* (Gmel.).

Distribution. Common over the whole of the low-country and at medium elevations, occasionally ascending to the higher hills. This sub-species occurs also in South India, and allied sub-species are found over most of India and Burma, extending to China.

Habits. A common bird in gardens and cultivated lands. It frequents bushes and low trees but seldom descends to the ground. It feeds on berries and insects. The call-notes are cheerful and varied but it has not much of a song. The nest is a small cup of fine twigs, &c., lined with soft rootlets, placed in a bush. There are usually three eggs and breeding generally takes place from about November till May, but there is much variation in the time according to the weather conditions and the district.

Measurements.	Length	7·8	inches.
	Wing	3·75	,,
	Tail	3·2	,,
	Tarsus	0·85	,,
	Bill from gape	0·8	,,

MOLPASTES CAFER CAFER (Linn.)

The Ceylon Red-vented Bulbul

♂ below ♀ above 4/7 natural size

SAXICOLOIDES FULICATA FULICATA (LINNAEUS)

THE BLACK ROBIN

Vernacular Names—Kalu-polkichchā (Sinhalese)
Kāri-kuruvi } (Tamil)
Vannāti-kuruvi }

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 63; 2 ed., 1931, p. 42.

Distribution. Common throughout the low-country, especially in the drier districts, and occurs up to 5,000 feet in the drier parts of the hills. It also inhabits the southern half of the Indian Peninsula.

Habits. A familiar bird in cultivated, open, or stony country. It spends most of its time on the ground, where it searches constantly for the insects upon which it feeds. It is an active and perky little bird, much given to elevating and jerking its tail. The note is a cheerful chirp. The nest is a loose structure of twigs, fibres, hair, or even rags, with a fairly deep hollow, and is situated in any convenient cavity, a hole in a bank being perhaps preferred. The breeding season lasts from March until September.

The white shoulder-patch in the male, although really large, is generally almost concealed by the fluffy scapular feathers and is only conspicuous when the bird flies, or during its courtship display.

Measurements.			
	Length	6·3	inches.
	Wing	2·85	,,
	Tail	2·5	,,
	Tarsus	1	,,
	Bill from gape	0·7	,,

SAXICOLOIDES FULICATA FULICATA (Linn.)

The Black Robin

♂ right ♀ left 7/9 natural size

COPSYCHUS SAULARIS CEYLONENSIS Sclater

THE CEYLON MAGPIE ROBIN

Vernacular Names—Polkichchā (Sinhalese)
Kāri-kuruvi } (Tamil)
Pāt-kāri-kuruvi }

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 64; 2 ed., 1931, p. 43.

Distribution. This sub-species is found in Ceylon and Travancore; other sub-species are distributed almost throughout the Indian Empire and Malaya. In Ceylon it is found almost everywhere, up to 5,500 feet, except in dense forests.

Habits. This is one of the commonest and most familiar of the birds of Ceylon. It shows a distinct partiality for the neighbourhood of man. It spends much time on the ground hunting for insects, which, together with berries, form its food. Both sexes have a habit of frequently raising the tail in a series of jerks and then suddenly lowering and expanding the tail and wings simultaneously. The male sings beautifully in the mornings and evenings, especially at the commencement of the breeding season, which begins about March and continues until August. The nest is a rough structure placed in a hole in a tree or in a suitable niche in a building.

The female, in general, resembles the male but her head and breast are dark grey. The young resemble the parents but are duller in shade and have the throat and breast spotted with yellow ochre.

Measurements.			
	Length	8	inches.
	Wing	3·8	,,
	Tail	3·5	,,
	Tarsus	1·15	,,
	Bill from gape	1	,,

COPSYCHUS SAULARIS CEYLONENSIS Sclater

The Ceylon Magpie Robin

♂ 3/5 natural size

OREOCINCLA DAUMA IMBRICATA (LAYARD)

THE CEYLON THRUSH

Vernacular Names—Not recorded.

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 72; 2 ed., 1931, p. 51.

Distribution. This sub-species is peculiar to Ceylon, where it is confined to the hills above 2,000 feet. Allied sub-species are found in parts of India and Burma.

Habits. The Ceylon Thrush is a rare and shy bird which inhabits forested country. It searches for its food on the ground, turning over dead leaves for the insects which they harbour. The nest is a large cup of moss and fern leaves, lined with rootlets, situated in a fork of a small tree; it is very seldom found.

The sexes are similar in colour.

Measurements.	Length	9·5	inches.
	Wing	4·9	,,
	Tail	3	,,
	Tarsus	1·1	,,
	Bill from gape	1·4	,,

OREOCINCLA DAUMA IMBRICATA (Layard.)

The Ceylon Thrush

♂ 4/7 natural size

PERICROCOTUS FLAMMEUS FLAMMEUS (Forster)

THE ORANGE MINIVET

Vernacular Names—Gini-kurullā (Sinhalese)
Māmpala-kuruvi (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 93 and 2 ed., 1931, p. 72 (*Pericrocotus speciosus flammeus*).

Distribution. Fairly generally distributed in the hills and occurs, locally, in the low-country. In India this sub-species is found in the Western Ghauts.

Habits. This bird is fairly common in most parts of the hills. It inhabits forested country and also gardens and tea estates, &c., but is confined to the neighbourhood of trees as it does not usually descend to the ground. It goes about in small family parties and is partial to the vicinity of streams and lakes. The notes consist of weak, but sweet, twitterings. The Orange Minivet feeds upon insects, such as caterpillars, which it finds among the foliage. The nest is a well-built, neat little cup, fastened by means of cobwebs to a small fork or branch at some height.

Measurements.		
	Length	7·75 inches.
	Wing	3·55 ,,
	Tail	3·55 ,,
	Tarsus	0·6 ,,
	Bill from gape	0·8 ,,

PERICROCOTUS FLAMMEUS FLAMMEUS (Forster)

The Orange Minivet

♂ above ♀ below ⅔ natural size

HIRUNDO DAURICA HYPERYTHRA LAYARD

THE CEYLON SWALLOW

Vernacular Names—Wèhi-lihiniyä (Sinhalese)
Tām-pādi
Adaikalān-kuruvi } (Tamil)
Talai-illātha-kuruvi

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 147; 2 ed., 1931, p. 128.

Distribution. This sub-species is peculiar to Ceylon where it inhabits the whole of the low-country and ascends the hills to 3,000 feet, or even higher on the Uva patanas.

Habits. This bird frequents open hill-sides, paddy-fields, tanks, &c. Its flight is not so swift or light as that of the Eastern Swallow (*H. rustica gutturalis*) or the House Swallow (*H. javanica domicola*), in company with both of which it may often be seen hawking for insects. Its note is a fairly loud, warbling twitter, usually uttered on the wing. The nest is a bottle-shaped receptacle of mud, lined internally with a felted layer of feathers, and fastened to the roof of a rock cave, the arch of a bridge or the eaves of a roof.

Measurements.			
	Length	6·6	inches.
	Wing	4·75	,,
	Tail	3·2	,,
	Tarsus	0·55	,,
	Bill from gape	0·6	,,

HIRUNDO DAURICA HYPERYTHRA Layard

The Ceylon Swallow

♂ left ♀ right ♂ ⅔ natural size

ZOSTEROPS CEYLONENSIS HOLDSWORTH

THE LARGE CEYLON WHITE-EYE

Vernacular Name—Mal-kurullā (Sinhalese)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 161; 2 ed., 1931, p. 143.

Distribution. Peculiar to Ceylon and confined to the hills above 3,000 feet.

Habits. This bird is a common and familiar species in the hills. It goes in small flocks and frequents gardens and tea estates as well as the depths of the forest. It visits flowers for their nectar and feeds also upon small caterpillars (that of the Tea Tortrix, *Homona coffearia* being a favourite), and on wild berries. Its note is a frequently-uttered twittering chirrup. The nest is a small cup of fibres and moss placed in a fairly dense bush at no great height. The breeding season is from March to May.

Measurements.			
	Length	4·6	inches.
	Wing	2·2	,,
	Tail	1·7	,,
	Tarsus	0·65	,,
	Bill from gape	0·6	,,

ZOSTEROPS CEYLONENSIS Holdsw.

The Large Ceylon White-eye

♂ below ♀ above 4/5 natural size

MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS JAVANICUS HORSFIELD

THE BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER

Vernacular Names—Kurumini-kurullā (Sinhalese)
Kattālan-kuruvi } (Tamil)
Panchānkam (E. Prov.) }

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 192; 2 ed., 1931, p. 174.

Distribution. This species is a migrant to Ceylon arriving usually in August and leaving in April. It spreads all over the low-country and ascends the hills to 5,000 feet in the drier districts. It breeds over the greater part of India and its range extends to Burma, the Malay Peninsula and Java. Allied sub-species occur in Madagascar, the greater part of Africa, and Persia.

Habits. This bird prefers openly-wooded country and is partial to the neighbourhood of lakes or rivers. It associates usually in small flocks but sometimes in very large ones. The flight is very graceful and consists of rapid wing-beatings alternating with a sailing motion. It usually perches on bare twigs at a considerable height, but sometimes on low shrubs, and has a habit of returning to its perch repeatedly after sallying forth in quest of prey. It feeds on insects, such as bees, wasps, beetles, and dragonflies, and always captures them on the wing. The cry is a rather loud, but mellow and musical chirrup. It does not breed in Ceylon, but in India its eggs are laid on the earth in a chamber at the end of a long tunnel dug in a bank by the bird.

The sexes are alike in colour.

Measurements.

Length	12	inches.
Wing	5·25	,,
Tail	5 to 6	,,
Tarsus	0·5	,,
Bill from gape	2	,,

MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS JAVANICUS Hors.

The Blue-tailed Bee eater

♂ 7/11 natural size

MELITTOPHAGUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS (GMELIN)

THE CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER

Vernacular Names—Kurumini-kurullā (Sinhalese)
Kattālan-kuruvi } (Tamil)
Panchānkam (E. Prov.) }

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 193; 2 ed., 1931, p. 175.

Distribution. This species is found in scattered colonies throughout the low-country and ascends the hills to 4,000 feet in the drier districts.

Habits. The Chestnut-headed Bee-eater inhabits forest and well-wooded country, particularly in the neighbourhood of streams and tanks. It commonly perches on bare twigs at a considerable height and frequently chooses a favourite perch to which it returns after chasing its prey. It feeds on insects which it captures on the wing. The flight is very graceful. The eggs are laid in a chamber at the end of a tunnel dug by the birds in the bank of a river or road; April being the usual nesting-month.

The sexes are alike in colour.

Measurements.	Length	8·5	inches.
	Wing	4·2	,,
	Tail	3·25	,,
	Tarsus	0·43	,,
	Bill from gape	1·7	,,

MELITTOPHAGUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS (Gmel.)

The Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

♂ 8/11 natural size

CEYX ERITHACA ERITHACA (LINNAEUS)

THE THREE-TOED KINGFISHER

Vernacular Names—Podi-pilihuduwā (Sinhalese)
Mīn-kotti (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 197 and 2 ed., 1931, p. 179 (*Ceyx tridactylus tridactylus*).

Distribution. This species appears to prefer the dry low-country but occurs in parts of the wet-zone up to about 2,000 feet. It is nowhere very common. It is found also in parts of India and Malaya.

Habits. This lovely bird is usually found on the banks of streams which run through fairly dense forest. Its flight is very swift and it frequently utters a shrill, piping note as it darts along. It spends much time quietly waiting for its prey, which consists of small fishes, frogs, crabs, &c. It lays its eggs in a chamber at the end of a tunnel one or two feet long, which it digs in the bank of a stream or small water-course.

The sexes are alike in colour and size. The young are duller.

Measurements.	Length	5·35	inches.
	Wing	2·2	,,
	Tail	0·9	,,
	Tarsus	0·35	,,
	Bill from gape	1·5	,,

CEYX ERITHACA ERITHACA (Linn.)

The Three-toed Kingfisher

♂ 8/9 natural size

HALCYON SMYRNENSIS GENEROSA Madarasz

THE CEYLON WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER

Vernacular Names—Pilihuduwā (Sinhalese)
Min-kotti (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 198; 2 ed., 1931, p. 181.

Distribution. Found all over the Island except in dense forest and on the higher hills.

Habits. This Kingfisher inhabits open or sparsely-wooded country and is common even in towns. It feeds upon grasshoppers, worms, small lizards, frogs and occasionally crabs and fishes. Its cry is a loud, rattling scream frequently uttered on the wing. In the breeding season it also utters a whinnying cry from the top of a tree. The nesting chamber is at the end of a tunnel 3 to 6 feet long, excavated in the soft soil of a river-bank or side of a ditch.

The sexes are alike and the young are very similar to the adults but somewhat duller and with traces of dark tips to the breast feathers.

Measurements.	Length	11	inches.
	Wing	4·5	,,
	Tail	3·3	,,
	Tarsus	0·5	,,
	Bill from gape	2·6	,,

HALCYON SMYRNENSIS GENEROSA Madar.

The Ceylon White-breasted Kingfisher

♂ 7/11 natural size

OTUS BAKKAMOENA BAKKAMOENA Pennant

THE COLLARED SCOPS OWL

Vernacular Names—Punchi-bassā (Sinhalese)
Sinna-āndai } (Tamil)
Nattu }

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 252; 2 ed., 1931, p. 238.

Distribution. Almost throughout the low-country and up to 3,000 feet in the hills.

Habits. This is the commonest owl in Ceylon, and, as it does not shun the neighbourhood of man, it is better known than most owls. It is very common in towns but also occurs in forest. It is nocturnal, spending the day in a dense, shady tree or hollow branch, and emerging soon after dusk to commence its hunt for food. It appears to pair for life, and the male and female keep in touch with each other through the night by a cry resembling the word "what" (but with an open sound at the end), which is frequently repeated and is answered by the bird's mate. It feeds mainly upon insects, such as beetles and grasshoppers, but is also very fond of geckoes (wall-lizards). The eggs are laid, in February, March or April, in a hollow tree or cranny in a roof, &c., and the young are clothed with dirty-grey fluff. Their parents are very bold in their defence and will fearlessly attack anyone who attempts to capture them. The flight is swift, direct, and noiseless.

The bird shown in the Plate is represented in an attitude of surprise or alarm. When at peace, the long ear-tufts are lowered and the head assumes a rounder form. The physiognomy of most owls varies so greatly according to their mental state that no single illustration can give a complete idea of their appearance.

Measurements.			
	Length	8	inches
	Wing	5·85	,,
	Tail	2·6	,,
	Tarsus	1·25	,,
	Bill from gape	0·85	,,

OTUS BAKKAMOENA BAKKAMOENA Pennant

The Collared Scops Owl

♂ 3/5 natural size

HALIASTUR INDUS INDUS (Boddaert)

THE BRAHMINY KITE

Vernacular Names—Ukussā (Sinhalese)
Chem-pirāndu (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 272; 2 ed., 1931, p. 258.

Distribution. Found all round the coast and about the larger rivers and tanks, and occurs as a straggler in the hills. It is found throughout the Indian Empire, and allied sub-species occur in Malaya and Australia.

Habits. This is a very common bird about tanks and lagoons, especially in the dry districts. It frequents the Colombo Harbour during the north-east monsoon. It spends much time on the wing, soaring in circles with a graceful, though not rapid, flight. The food consists largely of offal such as dead fish, but it also captures crabs, frogs, grasshoppers, and an occasional chicken or wounded bird. The cry is a peevish, mewing squeal. The nest, which resembles that of a crow, is placed in the crown of a palm, or in a tree, without much attempt at concealment.

The young bird is coloured dark brown, more or less mottled with buff. The head, neck, and breast are brownish buff, the ear-coverts dark-brown.

Measurements.

Length	19	inches
Wing	14·75	,,
Tail	8·5	,,
Tarsus	2	,,
Bill from gape	1·4	,,

HALIASTUR INDUS INDUS (Bodd.)

The Brahminy Kite

♂ ¼ natural size

ASTUR BADIUS BADIUS Gmelin

THE CEYLON SHIKRA

Vernacular Names—Kobēyi-ukussā (Sinhalese)
Valluru (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 282; 2 ed., 1931, p. 268.

Distribution. Found all over the Island except in heavy forest. It appears to be rare above 5,000 feet. This sub-species is confined to Ceylon and Travancore, but closely allied sub-species are found from Southern Persia extending through India and Burma to Southern China.

Habits. This little hawk inhabits openly-wooded country. It feeds largely on lizards and insects but, when it has young to feed, it kills considerable numbers of small birds. Its usual flight is swift and direct but occasionally it soars to a considerable height. The cry is a high-pitched, double-note scream which is repeated several times in quick succession. It nests in fairly tall trees; the breeding season extends from about April to August.

The upper bird shown in the Plate is a young female; the young male is similar but smaller. The adult female resembles the adult male but is browner in general tone.

Measurements.

	Female.	
Length	13·5	inches.
Wing	7·5	,,
Tail	6·5	,,
Tarsus	2	,,
Bill from gape	0·75	,,

Males are smaller; length about 12 inches; wing 6·75 inches.

ASTUR BADIUS BADIUS (Gmel.)

The Ceylon Shikra

Adult ♂ below Immature ♀ above ⅔ natural size

CERCHNEIS TINNUNCULUS TINNUNCULUS (LINNAEUS)

THE EUROPEAN KESTREL

Vernacular Names—Ukussā, Kurullā-goya (Sinhalese); Valluru (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 294 (*Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*); 2 ed., 1931, p. 281.

Distribution. The Kestrel visits Ceylon in large numbers during the north-east monsoon and spreads all over the Island. It inhabits the whole of Europe and Asia, and occurs in North Africa in the winter. It breeds in the more northern parts of its range but there is a small, more richly-coloured sub-species which breeds in the South Indian hills and probably occurs in Ceylon.

Habits. The Kestrel loves open, grassy country, either flat or hilly, but prefers the neighbourhood of rugged cliffs and precipices or of big buildings. It is a past-master in the art of poising itself on the wing against the pressure of wind or of ascending air currents, and constantly uses this method while searching for its prey, which in Ceylon, consists mainly of grasshoppers, with an occasional lizard. In its breeding range it feeds largely upon field mice, and occasionally upon small birds. Its cry, uttered usually when it is annoyed by other birds of prey or by crows, is a shrill "Ki-ki-ki-ki-ki-".

The young male resembles the female (which is shown in the Plate), but the adult male has a grey head and tail and the dark markings on its back and wings are fewer and more drop-shaped.

Measurements.

	Female.	
Length	14	inches.
Wing	9·75	"
Tail	6·75	"
Tarsus	1·5	"
Bill from gape	0·85	"

Males are slightly smaller than females.

CERCHNEIS TINNUNCULUS TINNUNCULUS (Linn.)

The European Kestrel

♀ ½ natural size

CAPELLA STENURA (KUHL)

THE PINTAIL SNIPE

Vernacular Names—Keswatuwa (Sinhalese)
Ullân-kuruvi (Tamil)

Reference. Wait, "Manual of the Birds of Ceylon," 1 ed., 1925, p. 378 (*Gallinago stenura*); 2 ed., 1931, p. 369.

Distribution. This Snipe visits Ceylon in large numbers in the north-east monsoon, arriving in August or September and leaving again in April. It spreads all over the Island but is more abundant in the low-country. Its breeding-place is Siberia, Eastern Turkestan, and probably Northern China. In winter it extends all over China, Indo-China, Burma, and India, but is commoner in the East of India than in the West.

Habits. This Snipe, like other species of its genus, inhabits swampy country, paddy-fields, and the margins of lakes. It feeds mainly at night, and during the heat of the day hides in low jungle or under bushes. When disturbed it rises with a loud bleat and flies rapidly away. The food consists of worms, &c., which are obtained by probing in soft mud with the long bill; the latter at its tip is very flexible and richly supplied with nerves and it is probable that the worms are detected through the sense of touch alone.

Measurements.			
	Length	10·5	inches
	Wing	5·25	,,
	Tail	2·2	,,
	Tarsus	1·2	,,
	Bill from gape	2·5	,,

Note. The Fantail Snipe, *Capella gallinago gallinago* occasionally visits Ceylon. It closely resembles the Pintail Snipe in appearance but may be distinguished by having its outer tail-feathers of ordinary form, whereas, in the Pintail, seven or eight of the outer feathers are very narrow and stiff.

CAPELLA STENURA (Kuhl.)

The Pintail Snipe

♂ 2/3 natural size

					Salary Percentage	Salary Percentage	Salary Percentage		Salary Percentage	Salary Percentage	Salary Percentage	Monthly Contribution	Salary Percentage